

THE COIN CIRCULAR.

VOL. I.

TITUSVILLE, PA., OCTOBER, 1875.

No. 8.

THE BRAZILIAN MINT.

From THE BANER'S ALMANAC, 1875.

Very little is known in this country of the monetary system of Brazil. Except by our merchants whose business imposes the necessity of acquiring some information on the subject, the interesting and suggestive history of the monetary experiments of the Brazilian Government are rarely investigated among us. The coinage of money in Brazil was begun in 1694, by the Portuguese Government, in the city of Bahia. The mint was in 1699 transferred to Rio de Janeiro. In 1703 this establishment was reorganized, and a monopoly was conferred upon it by the suppression of several smaller mints, which, however, soon sprang up again. In 1849, the monetary system of Brazil underwent a radical reform, and from that period to 1872 the mint at Rio de Janeiro coined in gold pieces, 43,306,010 milreis; in silver pieces, 18,446,045 milreis; in alloyed copper pieces, 628,770 milreis. The standard value has been several times disturbed. It is now the gold octava of 22 carats, equal to 4 milreis, which are worth about \$2 16 in gold. Since 1857, English sovereigns have been a legal tender to the amount of 8,890 reis.

Two causes have been at work to disturb the Brazilian currency; first, the disposition above referred to on the part of the Government to change the metallic standard, and secondly, the issue of an unconvertible paper currency, consisting of Treasury notes, called *sedulas*, for various denominations, of one milreis and upwards. We are indebted for most of the foregoing facts to the Director of the Brazilian Mint, Councillor Candido de Arredo Coutinho, M. D., who reports the total coinage from 1694 to 1872, as follows: Gold, 296,237,146 milreis, equal to \$159,968,058; silver, 46,576,832 milreis, equal to \$25,151,489. The present mint at Rio de Janeiro was erected in 1858.

THE EMBLEMATIC EAGLE.

The spread-eagle which has always figured so conspicuously on our national coins, is one of the most beautiful emblems in heraldry, and seems to have been, in ages past a popular device. The eagle is most seen on the coins of our own country, on those of Austria, Russia and Prussia. The Austrian and Russian eagles are double-headed and have a strong resemblance to each other. The Prussian eagle or Imperial German eagle as adopted by the Federal Council about four years ago has one head, turned to the right; above the Imperial Crown. The shield on the eagle's breast displays the Prussian eagle, each wing containing six broad and five narrow feathers; the claws are without the insignia which they usually seemed to grasp, and the tail is in heraldic delineation. Appleton's Cyclopaedia makes the following note of the heraldic eagle: "The Etruscans were the first who adopted the eagle as the symbol of royal power, and bore its image as a standard at the head of their armies. From the time of Marius it was the principal emblem of the Roman Republic, and the only standard of the legions. It was represented with outspread wings, and was usually of silver, till the time of Hadrian, who made it of gold. The double-headed eagle was in use among the Byzantine Emperors, to indicate, it is said, their claim to the Empire both of the East and the West; it was adopted in the fourteenth century by the German Emperors, and afterward appeared on the arms of Russia. The arms of Prussia are distinguished by the black eagle, and those of Poland bore the white. The white-headed eagle is the emblematic device of the United States of America, is the badge of the Order of Cincinnati, and is figured on coins. Napoleon adopted the eagle for the emblem of imperial France; it was not, however, represented in heraldic style, but in its natural form, with the thunderbolts of Jupiter. It was disused under the Bourbons, but was restored by a decree of Louis Napoleon, January 1st, 1852.

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TITUSVILLE, PA., OCTOBER, 1875.

MEDALS AND COINS.

In the study of numismatics these two divisions are too often assimilated by the collectors, as the line of distinction has never been clearly defined. A treatise on the science of medals by some one of our numismatic authors would be an invaluable addition to our little store of numismatic literature. Perhaps the fact that medals tell their own histories, or are histories themselves, may be attributed to the scarcity of books, but we think they present a field for an essay on their antiquity and general connection with history. Such a work would tend to awaken a greater interest in their study, for one can certainly find more profitable amusement in a cabinet of historical medals than in pieces of money used merely as a medium of trade and bearing little relation to history or science.

A New York paper in reporting the Stenz sale, headed its paragraph "Old Coins at Auction," which is a common heading to articles of that character in newspapers; another form is "Old Cents under the Hammer", the adjective *old* being almost invariably used, and sometimes *ancient* applied to coins of the eighteenth century. The first two headings mentioned smack of "good riddance to bad rubbish", and show the ignorance of the public in such matters. Newspapers also always class medals under the head of coins, and make them appear as an offshoot of the science; they speak of coin and medal sales in much the same way as they would of the disposition of a lot of old clothing or junk.

We are pleased to note the growing popularity of medal collecting, as evinced by the demand for fine medals at the late sales, and for the Centennial medals which have been issued in great numbers during the past year.

NUMISMA.

October number of *The Decorah Numismatic Journal* is at hand. We regret to learn that this is the last issue of that journal. It has experienced the fate of too many of our numismatic periodicals.

The extensive and valuable collection of coins and medals lately in the possession of the Stanntcn family, of Longbridge, England, was, Sept. 2nd, presented to the town of Birmingham, on the part of a number of gentlemen who had subscribed for its purchase.

489 lots of coins and medals will be sold at auction by Messrs. Thomas Birch & Son, Philadelphia, on the 7th inst. Catalogue by Mr. Haseltine.

Last month we stated that the collection of Mr. Regnault would be sold in Paris this month. Since then we have received, from the Messrs. Hamburger, the catalogue of another part of Mr. Regnault's collection and of two other collections, announcing that another sale would take place at Frankfort-on-the-Main, commencing October 25th, and lasting twenty days. An exhibition of the coins and medals will be given on the 17, 20 and 24, previous to the sale. There are 6,705 lots, 37 consisting of the North American series, of which there is nothing of especial interest beyond three or four scarce medals, and those are sometimes catalogued in our own sales. The German series contain the largest number of valuable and interesting medals, from the fact, probably, that two of the collections were formed in Germany. Messrs. L. & L. Hamburger, 32 Friedberger—Landstrasse, Frankfort-on-the-Main have charge of the sale, and will attend to all bids sent.

A man never knows what it is to feel alone in the world until he has grabbed a nickel in a show-case window, and discovered that it is fastened to the lower surface of the glass.

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The Philadelphia *Ledger* says that a young Indian girl, of the Wyandotte tribe, living in that city, named Jane Sarasas, has in her possession two ancient silver medals, which have come to her as heir-looms. One of them was given by the United States Commissioner to the chief of the Wyandotte tribe at the treaty of Greenwich, in 1793, and bears the date with an appropriate inscription. The other was presented to Gen. Washington in 1793 by some visiting Indian chiefs. The latter has engraved upon it an agricultural scene with the figure of Washington grasping the hand of an Indian, who is smoking the pipe of peace. The medals are massive.

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Col. Cohen's collection of coins and medals will be sold at public auction by Messrs. Bangs, Merwin & Co., New York, October 25, and four days following. This sale is sure to draw considerable attention from the fact that the coins belong to one of our most prominent collectors and many of them being of excessive rarity. The collection contains the Washington Medal, or Cent, of 1792 in gold, an original 1804 Dollar, an 1823 Quarter-dollar, an 1802 Half-dime, and others of a high order of rarity. Mr. Cogan has charge of the sale and publishes the catalogue.

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We have received from Mr. Wood one of his Centennial-Satirical Washington Medals. Obverse, bust of Washington (from Houdon) to right, inscription: "First in War and Peace, last in securing a Monument," "1775-180 years-1875." Reverse, view of the Washington monument as it stands to-day; inscription: "Washington, D. C." (Presidency of U. S. Grant), "Corner Stone laid 1848-completed 1876 (?)"

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The following has proved to be an excellent receipt for taking impressions of coins and medals. Melt a little isinglass glue with brandy, and pour it thinly over the coin, so as to cover its whole surface; let it remain on for a day or two, till it has thoroughly dried and hardened, and then take it off, when it will be fine clear and hard as a piece of Muscovy glass, and will have a very elegant impression of the coin. It will also resist the effects of damp air, which occasions all other kinds of glaz to soften and bend if not prepared in this way.

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Colonel Bean, of Waltham, has a silver half-dollar with a history to it, and which even the resumption of specie payment will not be likely to induce him to part with. This coin, bearing the date 1826, was presented to him in June of that year by General Lafayette, for holding his horse while the General was stopping at Judge Walker's, in Concord N. H., which was then the home of the Colonel.

OCTOBER CATALOGUE OF COINS AND MEDALS,

—For Sale by—

GEORGE A. DILLINGHAM,

TITUSVILLE, PA.

| | PRICE. |
|--|---------|
| 1797 Cent, good,..... | \$ 1.00 |
| 1802 do extra good..... | 1.25 |
| 1803 do " "..... | 1.25 |
| 1809 do good, fine date,..... | 1.75 |
| 1819 do extra good,..... | .50 |
| 1830 do very good,..... | .50 |
| 1832 do " "..... | .30 |
| 1834 do " "..... | .30 |
| 1840 do large date, very good,..... | .35 |
| 1842 do very good,..... | .50 |
| 1857 do nickel, uncirculated,..... | .25 |
| 1858 do " "..... | .25 |
| 1865 do " "..... | .25 |
| 1861 do " "..... | .25 |
| 1875 Twenty-cent coin, nearly proof,..... | .40 |
| Upper Canada Half Penny, Nova Scotia Head, good,..... | 1.00 |
| Geo. II Farthing, Hibernia, fine, 1760,..... | 1.25 |
| " III Two Penny, Copper, bright, 1797..... | 2.50 |
| William IV. Half Penny, uncirculated, 1837..... | .50 |
| " IV. Penny, fine, 1831,..... | .25 |
| " IV. Farthing, uncirculated, 1831,..... | .30 |
| Victoria Half Farthing, good, 1844..... | .30 |
| " Model Crown,..... | .35 |
| " " Half Farthing..... | .30 |
| " " Quarter Farthing..... | .30 |
| Medalet of the first French Revolution, bronze, good, 24,..... | .30 |
| Copper Medal, Duc de Berry, extra good, 20, .. | .50 |
| Bronze " Cupid extinguishing a torch, Latin inscriptions, good, 24,..... | .30 |
| Bronze Medal, William Wake, good, 28, | .40 |
| Three small medalets, Queen Victoria's children for set, | .75 |

FOREIGN SILVER.

| | |
|--|------|
| George II. Penny, extra good, 1746 | .25 |
| " II. Shilling, very fine, 1758 | .60 |
| Russia 15 Kop. uncirculated, 1861 | .35 |
| " 5 " proof, 1859 | .30 |
| John Frederick (Saxony) Crown, good, 1546 | 2.50 |
| New Granada Dollar, good, 1819 | 2.00 |
| Chili Dollar (Santiago), fine, 1833 | 2.00 |
| " Twenty Cent, uncirculated | .50 |
| " Two Real, fine, 1847 | .50 |
| Peru, Sol, Half and Fifth, quite uncirculated, '64 '58 and '63 respectively, for set | 2.75 |

THE COIN CIRCULAR.

FINE MEDALS.

| | PRICE. |
|---|--------|
| Masonic Temple, Phil'a., tin, 24, | \$.25 |
| Alexander Herzen, bronze, 32 | 1.00 |
| Centennial Art Gallery, W. M. 27 | .50 |
| Centennial. Genii of American Independence and Liberty, bronze, 36 | 2.00 |
| Charles I., bronze, 32 | 1.00 |
| Republic of France, '92, bronze, 32 | 1.25 |
| Queen Anne, bronze, 26 | 1.25 |
| George III., Coronation Medal, bronze, 22 | .50 |
| Prince Albert, bronze, 28, | .80 |
| Victoria's visit to Belgium, copper, 16, | .50 |
| French Medalet, Revolution of '92, bronze, | .30 |
| Lille (France), bronze, 16, | .20 |
| "Au Soulagement de L'Humanite," Snake and Retort, bronze, 24, | .35 |
| Pierre Mignard, bronze, 28, | .50 |
| <hr/> | |
| Sigismund III. (Poland), 6 Groschen, extra good, 1596 | 1.75 |
| " III. Shilling, uncirculated, 1787 | .60 |
| " II. Two Pence, extra good, 1760 | .30 |
| Bronze Medal, Flaxman, good, size 40, | 1.00 |

— NONE BUT NUMISMATIC ADVERTISEMENTS —
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1776. 1876.

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
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